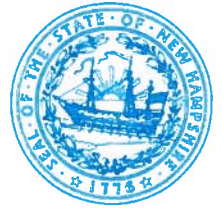




The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Clark B. Freise, Assistant Commissioner



February 14, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Avar
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 103
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: SB 129 An Act requiring a portion of the renewable energy fund to benefit low to moderate income residential customers and relative to electric renewable energy classes and relative to the class rate for biomass

Dear Chair Avar and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 129, requiring a portion of the renewable energy fund to benefit low to moderate income residential customers and relative to electric renewable energy classes and the class rate for biomass. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill because it would devote a portion of the Renewable Energy Fund to a low-income renewable energy program. The benefits of incentivizing additional renewable energy are described in RSA 362-F:1 as follows:

"Renewable energy generation technologies can provide fuel diversity to the state and New England generation supply through use of local renewable fuels and resources that serve to displace and thereby lower regional dependence on fossil fuels. This has the potential to lower and stabilize future energy costs by reducing exposure to rising and volatile fossil fuel prices. The use of renewable energy technologies and fuels can also help to keep energy and investment dollars in the state to benefit our own economy. In addition, employing low emission forms of such technologies can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter emissions transported into New Hampshire and also generated in the state, thereby improving air quality and public health, and mitigating against the risks of climate change. It is therefore in the public interest to stimulate investment in low emission renewable energy generation technologies in New England and, in particular, New Hampshire, whether at new or existing facilities."

www.des.nh.gov

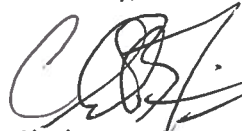
29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

The Honorable Kevin Avar
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 14, 2017
Page 2

DES also supports the revision of the Class III Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) to return the ACP to near its original value (reversing revisions made in 2011).

For the reasons identified by the General Court in the statute excerpt above, DES supports SB129. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 129. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Craig Wright, Director of the Air Resources Division (craig.wright@des.nh.gov, 271-1088) or Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director (michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov, 271-6390).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Freese', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Clark B. Freese
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of SB 129: Sens. Bradley, Feltes, Innis, Avar, French, Fuller Clark, Giuda, Reagan, Ward;
Reps. Richardson, Chandler, McConkey, Shepardson, Backus